

**Translation**

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

**PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**  
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>PCT/EPA 342</b>		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. <b>PCT/EP2004/007132</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>01.07.2004</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>04.07.2003</b>	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>F16L37/091 , F16L33/22</b>			
Applicant <b>FRIATEC AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT</b>			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>5</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>	
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>	

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/007132

Box No. 1

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 2, 4-14 as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* 1, 1a, 3 received by this Authority on 25.05.2005 with fax
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.\* 1-9 received by this Authority on 25.05.2005 with fax
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/6-6/6 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/007132

**Box No. V** Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. The closest prior art is the push-fit connector known from EP-A-1 178 255. Said document is acknowledged in the description and discloses the features set out in the preamble of claim 1; the subject matter of said claim, the only independent claim, is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The characterising features solve the technical problem of developing a push-fit connector of this type such that, with minimal complexity of manufacture and assembly, a high degree of operational reliability is achieved in connecting and securing the pipe ends in the push-fit connector.

The claimed solution is not known from the prior art, nor is it rendered obvious thereby. In particular, neither document EP-A-1 178 255 nor document US-A-2003-0067170 show a front and a rear sleeve part as per claim 1 since, in these known quick-fit connectors, one sleeve part is arranged radially within the other, that is to say it is axially overlapping.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement

The subject matter of independent claim 1  
therefore satisfies the requirements of PCT  
Article 33(3).

2. Claims 2-9 are dependent on claim 1 and, thus,  
also satisfy the requirements of the PCT in  
respect of novelty and inventive step.
3. The invention as described is industrially  
applicable in accordance with PCT Article 33(4).

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## Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

**Box I: Basis of the report**

The subject matter of claim 1 is based on the original claim 1 and on the features at the end of the original claims 2 and 5; see also page 3, paragraph 1, lines 4-7; page 4, paragraph 2, lines 1, 2, and 8-10; page 6, penultimate line to page 7, paragraph 2, line 16; and see also page 8, paragraph 3, line 6 to page 9, line 2.

The dependent claims correspond to the original dependent claims, the back-references having been altered as required and the order thereof amended, while the description has been brought in line with the new claims.